



NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

July's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) increased two-tenths of a percentage point over the month to 3.7 percent, but decreased four-tenths of a percentage point compared to July 2002, as seen in Northeast Table 1. Compared to the other LMAs throughout the state and the two Metropolitan Statistical Areas (Boise and Pocatello), Bonneville LMA's July unemployment rate was the lowest in Idaho, along with the Magic Valley LMA. The Bonneville LMA rate was 1.9 percentage points lower than the state's rate of 5.6 percent and 2.5 percentage points lower than the national rate of 6.2 percent. All four counties in the LMA individually showed slight changes of one-tenth of a percent with the exception of Butte County, which increased seven-tenths of a percentage point over the month. Since layoffs from the Idaho National Engineering & Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) started in 2001, even small changes in the county can significantly affect the percentage rate. There will probably continue to be larger percentage changes in the rate compared to the other three counties since more layoffs are occurring at the INEEL through its main contractor, Bechtel BWXT, throughout the rest of the year. Year-over-year, three of the counties in the Bonneville LMA showed unemployment rate decreases with the exception of Butte County, which increased three-tenths of a percentage point. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, showed a one-tenth-percentage point rate increase over the month; the rate was a four-tenths percentage point decrease from July 2002.

Other counties in Northeast Idaho showed some changes over the month. Both Custer and Fremont Counties experienced seven-tenths of a percentage

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, and Jefferson Counties

	July 2003*	June 2003	July 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	81,790	82,690	82,410	-1.1	-0.8
Unemployment	3,020	2,930	3,370	3.1	-10.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	3.5	4.1		
Total Employment	78,770	79,760	79,040	-1.2	-0.3
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	83,530	84,220	83,210	-0.8	0.4
Unemployment	2,650	2,520	2,960	5.2	-10.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.2	3.0	3.6		
Total Employment	80,880	81,710	80,250	-1.0	0.8
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	65,720	64,620	63,360	1.7	3.7
Goods-Producing Industries	11,400	10,890	10,150	4.7	12.3
Natural Resources & Mining	80	80	90	0.0	-11.1
Construction	5,810	5,390	5,010	7.8	16.0
Manufacturing	5,510	5,420	5,050	1.7	9.1
Food Manufacturing	2,760	2,730	2,690	1.1	2.6
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	300	310	270	-3.2	11.1
Machinery Manufacturing	500	480	420	4.2	19.0
Other Manufacturing	1,950	1,900	1,670	2.6	16.8
Service-Providing Industries	54,320	53,730	53,210	1.1	2.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	14,280	14,140	14,670	1.0	-2.7
Wholesale Trade	4,840	4,830	5,030	0.2	-3.8
Retail Trade	7,490	7,440	7,910	0.7	-5.3
Utilities	110	100	100	10.0	10.0
Transportation	1,840	1,770	1,630	4.0	12.9
Information	820	830	910	-1.2	-9.9
Financial Activities	2,050	2,040	2,090	0.5	-1.9
Professional & Business Services	11,790	11,700	11,790	0.8	0.0
Educational & Health Services	6,460	6,390	6,030	1.1	7.1
Leisure & Hospitality	5,220	5,020	5,140	4.0	1.6
Other Services	2,250	2,260	2,380	-0.4	-5.5
Government Education	4,920	5,060	4,050	-2.8	21.5
Government Administration	6,530	6,290	6,150	3.8	6.2

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

point increase in the unemployment rate as planting seasons ended and agricultural employment dropped to only necessary workers until preparation for harvest season starts. Year-over-year, the counties saw only small changes in the unemployment rate with the exception of Custer County, which experienced a decrease of 1.1 percentage points. Custer County's economy is highly dependent on agriculture, so changes in weather, crop maturation, and consumer demand affect employment. County unemployment rates for July 2003 are shown on State Table 1 on page 3.

The Bonneville LMA added 1,100 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* from June to July 2003. *Construction, Leisure & Hospitality, and Government Administra-*

tion were all large contributors. *Construction* showed the largest monthly gain of all industries with 420 jobs as all four counties continue to show steady demand in new construction. *Leisure & Hospitality* and *Government Administration* showed increases due to seasonal factors, such as tourism and the need for summer facility and grounds maintenance personnel. The only significant losses experienced over the month were in *Other Services* and *Government Education*.

Year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 2,360 jobs with gains in *Goods-Producing Industries* (1,250 jobs) outweighing gains in *Service-Providing Industries* (1,110 jobs). *Construction* gained 800 jobs with low interest rates making new opportunities favorable. *Manufacturing* gained 460 jobs, most coming from the *Other Manufacturing* sector. *Government Education*, *Government Administration*, and *Educational & Health Services* were also large contributors. Losses were noted in *Wholesale Trade* and *Retail Trade* along with smaller losses in *Information* and *Financial Activities* with effects of the national recession still playing a part in consumer conservatism.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

- The Scrap Coop, a new scrapbooking store located at 557 South Woodruff in Idaho Falls, is dedicated strictly to scrapbooking. Owner Janet Stephenson wanted to make sure the avid scrapbooker could find everything important to the craft. The Gathering Place, a defined space of comfortable seats and a library of idea books and albums, was included in the store for atmosphere and knowledge while children will have their own place to unwind with toys, games, and television. The business also includes an events and education coordinator to plan workshops, weekend retreats, and scrapbook cruises (the ultimate escape for the avid scrapbooker). A computer teacher will offer technological methods for finding new art and for making scrapbooking unique. A professional photographer will also set up once a month to take portraits and teach classes. Night classes and a special order counter round out the selection of offerings. More information is available at thescrapcoop@cs.com or at (208) 390-1893.
- Bed Bath & Beyond Inc. is opening a store at the Sportsman Warehouse Plaza next to the newly opened T.J. Maxx in Ammon, near Idaho Falls. Founded in 1971, Bed Bath & Beyond is a nationwide chain of superstores that sell predominantly better quality domestics merchandise and home furnishings. It is scheduled to open in September.

- NanoSteel, a research and development center owned by Florida-based parent company MILCOM Technologies, recently had an open house in Idaho Falls. The company is working with a powder that can be applied to metal surfaces to quadruple the surface hardness while adding very little physical weight. Dan Branagan, the inventor of the super-hardened steel coating developed at the INEEL, is NanoSteel's chief technical officer. Although the total number of full-time employees is four, its growth potential is sizeable over the next several years. The company is located at 505 Lindsay Boulevard.
- UPS is moving its operation from Utah Avenue to Broadway Avenue in Idaho Falls. While it's not a very far move, it is a welcome change from its location of almost 30 years. Completion of the new shipping and receiving center is expected by May 2004. The Utah Avenue location will become part of the urban renewal project.
- Weinhoff Drug Testing has now opened an office in Idaho Falls at 2235 East 25th Street, Suite 150. The company has been in business for almost 15 years in Boise. Instant tests, drug-free workplace programs, student testing, laboratory testing, breath testing, hair testing, and DNA testing are all offerings of the company. For more information, call (208) 528-9000.

Madison County

- Following trend as expected, BYU-Idaho added more students this fall than it had at record-breaking levels last year, with 10,667 full-time equivalent students for the semester. Now offering 49 baccalaureate degrees, the university continues to grow and expand its offerings. More degrees will continue to be added over the next couple of years, so the growth trend should continue. Rexburg is also growing and expanding, and more housing is being added to accommodate both single and married students, while services needed by these temporary-to-permanent residents continue to expand.

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